

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 AID-05 IGA-02 OMB-01
TRSE-00 /076 W
-----081547Z 114381 /41
R 081455Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2916

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, CI
SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT ACTS AGAINST TRADE UNION CRITICS

REF: 76 SANTIAGO 8819

1. SUMMARY: THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE FEDERATION OF PORT EMPLOYEES (FEBACH) HEADED BY SOMETHIMES OVERBEARING "DINAMICO" LEADER EDUARDO RIOS LOST ITS QUORUM DECEMBER 30 WHEN ONE OF ITS AFFILIATES WITHDREW. SITUATION IS SIMILAR TO COPPER WORKERS' CONFEDERATION CASE WHICH ALSO LOST ITS QUORUM (REFTEL. GOC NOW HAS THE CHOICE UNDER ITS DECREE LAWS TO REESTABLISH A QUORUM BY APPOINTING A REPLACEMENT OV TO FILL ALL FOUR VACANCIES ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD -- THE LATTER WOULD THREATEN RIOS' POSITION AS PRESIDENT OF FEBACH. WE BELIEVE THAT THE GOC WILL ACT WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK AND PROBABLY WILL STACK THE BOARD A LA THE CTC CASE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE "DINAMICOS" MET WITH LABATT JANUARY 6. EDUARDO RIOS, PRESIDENT OF BOTH MARITIME CONFEDERATION (COMACH) AND FEBACH SAID THAT THE GOC SUCCESS WITH REMOVING THE COPPER WORKERS CONFEDERATION FROM ITS LIST OF CRITICS HAS ENCOURAGED IT TO TAKE PIECMEAL ACTION AGAINST THE REMAING "DINAMICOS." RIOS SAID
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THAT THE GOC HAS APPROACHED ONE OF HIS LOCAL AFFILIATES AND REQUESTED THAT THEY WITHDRAW FROM THE FEDERATION. ACCORDING TO RIOS, THE GOC PROMISED TO BE FORTHCOMING WITH BOTH WAGES AND BENEFITS IF THE 57 MEMBER LOCAL COOPERATED. THE LOCAL VOTED 43-2 TO DISAFFILIATE ON DECEMBER 30, 1976. SAMUEL GALLARDO, TREASURER OF FEBACH AND SECRETARY/TREASURER OF THIS LOCAL ADDED THAT MOST OF THIS MANEUVERING OCCURRED WHILE HE WAS IN THE UNITED

STATES TAKING A COURSE IN LABOR ECONOMICS UNDER AN AIFLD GRANT.

3. RIOS SAID THAT ON JANUARY 6, RIGHT AFTER THE LOCAL OFFICIALLY INFORMED THE MINISTRY OF LABOR THAT IT HAD DISAFFILIATED ITSELF FROM FEBACH, A LABOR INSPECTOR CALLED GALLARDO TO TEL HIM TO LEAVE SANTIAGO AND RETURN TO HIS LOCAL UNION AS HE WAS NOT LONGER ON THE FEBACH EXECUTIVE BOARD. THEREFORE, IN ORDER TO CONTINUE FUNCTIONING AS A FEDERATION, RIOS MUST NOW REQUEST THE MINISTRY OF LABOR TO APPOINT AT LEAST ONE MEMBER TO HIS EXECUTIVE BOARD TO EFFECT A QUORUM. HOWEVER THERE ARE THREE OTHER LONG-STANDING VACANCIES ON THE SEVEN MEMBER BOARD. THE MINISTRY OF LABOR, IN ACCORDANCE WITH DECREE LAW 198 COULD FILL ALL THE VACANCIES AND THEREBY ESTABLISH ITS OWN MAJORITY. RIOS BELIEVES THAT THE GOC WILL TAKE THIS ACTION. HE POINTS OUT THAT BOTH PRESIDENT PINOCHET AND THE MINISTER OF LABOR ARE OUT OF SANTIAGO VISITING THE ANTARCTIC REGION AND COULD THEREBY DISCLAIM RESPONSIBILITY FOR REMOVING HIM AS PRESIDENT OF FEBACH.

4. FILLING ALL THE VACANCIES WOULD INEVITABLY LEAD TO DISPLACING RIOS AS THE PRESIDENT OF FEBACH. RIOS WOULD STILL BE PRESIDENT OF THE UNDERFUNDED CONFEDERATION (COMACH), BUT WOULD BE CUT OFF FROM THE FINANCIAL AND MORAL SUPPORT WHICH IS BASED UPON HIS PRESIDENCY OF THE FEDERATION.

5. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT RIOS HAS GENERALLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE SEVERITY OF THE CRISIS. RIOS HEAVY HANDEDLY SENT GALLARDO TO THE UNITED STATES WITHOUT CONSULTING HIS LOCAL WHICH WAS BOTH SURPRISED AND ANGRY AT LOSING HIM FOR NINE MONTHS. IN ADDITION, RIOS HAS NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TAKEN THE TIME TO MEND FENCES WITH HIS RANK AND FILE. HOWEVER, THIS NEW CRISIS IS NOT CAUSED BY ANY SPECIFIC ACTION TAKEN BY RIOS. AS IN THE CTC CASE THE GOC TWISTED ARMS UNTIL IT BROKE THE QUORUM.

6. RIOS IS SCHEDULED TO CALL ON AMBASSADOR EARLY IN THE WEEK OF JANUARY 10. DEPENDING ON THE RESULTS OF THIS MEETING, WE WILL FORWARD ANY APPROPRIATE RECOMMENDATIONS.
POPPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, LABOR LAW, DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, MEETING VOTING RECORDS, PERSONNEL SEPARATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SANTIA00219
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770008-0381
Format: TEL
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770169/aaaachyu.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2c05b7db-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 SANTIAGO 8819
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3637674
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOVERNMENT ACTS AGAINST TRADE UNION CRITICS
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, CI, (RIOS, EDUARDO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2c05b7db-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009